

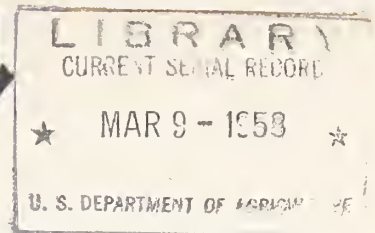
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Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS



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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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U. S. TOBACCO EXPORT VOLUME DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1957; RECORD VALUE

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in calendar 1957, at 501.0 million pounds (export weight), were 1.8 percent below those of 1956. The value of 1957 exports, however, at \$359.1 million, was 7.7 percent above the 1956 value and set a new record for any calendar year.

Exports of flue-cured leaf in 1957 totaled 417.7 million pounds (export weight)--just a little below the 420.4 million exported in 1956. Burley exports, at 20.5 million pounds in 1957, were about 30 percent lower than those for the previous year. Substantial increases occurred in 1957 movement of Virginia fire-cured, Maryland, Green River, One Sucker, cigar wrapper, and cigar binder. Black Fat, dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, and cigar filler exports were below those for 1956.

Average export prices per pound for the principal kinds were as follows, with 1956 prices shown in parenthesis: flue-cured, 72.9 cents (66.6); Burley, 76.3 cents (58.7); fire-cured Kentucky-Tennessee, 48.6 cents (51.9); Maryland, 63.7 cents (62.8). (A detailed breakdown of U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco to all destinations in 1957, by quantity and value, will be issued in a few weeks.)

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by type and export weight, January-December 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Type	December		Percent change	January-December		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
	1,000 pounds		Percent	1,000 pounds		Percent
Flue-cured.....	45,732	37,088	-18.9	420,439	417,679	-.7
Burley.....	4,292	1,234	-71.2	29,199	20,498	-29.8
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn....	1,378	1,044	-24.2	24,186	21,995	-9.1
Va. fire-cured 1/.....	484	256	-47.1	4,400	5,291	+20.3
Maryland.....	1,155	1,203	+4.2	12,059	13,534	+12.2
Green River.....	15	58	+286.7	1,308	1,639	+25.3
One Sucker.....	1,761	56	-96.8	2,362	2,621	+11.0
Black Fat, etc.....	840	492	-41.4	4,632	4,476	-3.5
Cigar wrapper.....	438	380	-13.2	3,918	4,493	+14.7
Cigar binder.....	1,005	536	-46.7	3,102	3,863	+24.5
Cigar filler.....	228	---	---	764	99	-87.0
Other.....	415	371	-10.6	3,983	4,765	+19.6
Total.....	57,743	42,718	-26.0	510,356	500,953	-1.8
Declared value (million dollars)....	39.0	31.5	-19.2	333.5	359.1	+7.7
1/ Includes sun-cured.						

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. exports of tobacco products in calendar 1957 were valued at \$73.7 million--up 11.8 percent from calendar 1956. Cigarette exports for 1957 amounted to nearly 17 billion pieces, compared with 15.7 billion in 1956. Exports of cigars and cheroots were also up last year. Exports of smoking tobacco in packages, at 606,000 pounds, were the same as in 1956. Chewing, snuff, and smoking tobacco in bulk were down.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January-December 1956
and 1957, with percent change

Product	December		Percent: change	Jan.-Dec.		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces).....	574	1,135	+97.7	8,330	9,187	+10.3
Cigarettes (million pieces).....	1,475	1,720	+16.6	15,714	16,993	+8.1
Chewing and snuff (1,000 pounds).....	195	137	-29.7	1,661	1,462	-12.0
Smoking tobacco in pkgs. (1,000 pounds).....	50	33	-34.0	606	606	---
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds).....	975	585	-40.0	5,675	4,448	-21.6
Declared value (million dollars)	6.6	7.9	+19.7	65.9	73.7	+11.8

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

CANADIAN TOBACCO FARMERS DISTURBED
BY PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

Canadian producers of flue-cured tobacco who are selling their leaf for the first time under the new auction system are concerned about the variation in prices received for identical tobacco grades over a short period. They cite several cases where leaf rejected on one day has been sold at double or more the original bid when offered at the following sale. Sales records show many instances of wide variations in prices for the same grade of leaf.

Growers believe these fluctuations are much larger than they should be and have requested remedial action. The Marketing Board has applied to the Ontario Government for a \$10-million loan to buy tobacco in support of market prices. The leaf is to be processed in a plant recently bought by the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers Cooperative. The Dominion Government has reportedly assured the board that it will be given the necessary funds if the Ontario Provincial Government approves.

Since January 20, when selling more bales per pallet was authorized, leaf has sold so fast that buyers' plants are glutted. Bottlenecks in re-drying and packing plants are expected to be removed as plants organize on a 24-hour per day basis. Operating continuously, the plants are expected to handle about 2.3 million pounds daily.

RHODESIAS-NYASALAND REPORT FIRE-CURED EXPORT SALES

Average export prices of fire-cured leaf exported from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland during April-October 1957 varied from a high of 47 U. S. cents to a low of 17 U. S. cents per pound. The United Kingdom was the largest buyer of both leaf and strips during this period.

The average price of fire-cured leaf (unstemmed tobacco) exported from the Federation during April-October 1957 was 29 U. S. cents per pound; for stemmed tobacco it was 41 U. S. cents. In comparison, Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured leaf exported from the United States during approximately the same period averaged 48.5 U. S. cents per pound.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland,
exports of fire-cured tobacco, by country of destination,
quantity, and average export price, April-October 1957 1/

Country of destination	Fire-cured 2/			
	Unstemmed		Stemmed	
	Quantity	Av. export price 3/	Quantity	Av. export price 3/
	1,000 pounds	U. S. cents per pound	1,000 pounds	U. S. cents per pound
United Kingdom.....	4,013	27	2,993	40
Australia.....	23	37	--	--
U. of South Africa.....	1	17	--	--
Sierra Leone.....	776	45	--	--
Netherlands.....	1,261	24	7	22
Germany, West.....	15	28	--	--
Belgium.....	16	26	4	35
Denmark.....	7	26	--	--
Sweden.....	--	--	49	34
Belgian Congo.....	3,537	24	--	--
French Africa.....	515	34	--	--
Canary Islands.....	1,076	23	--	--
Others.....	1,628	47	191	59
Total.....	12,868	29	3,244	41

1/ These months cover the major portion of exports from the 1957 harvest.

2/ Does not include minor quantities of fire-cured scrap.

3/ Converted at 1 = U. S. \$2.80.

CIGARETTE PRICES INCREASED IN IRELAND

Retail prices of cigarettes in Ireland were increased on February 3 by 1.1 U. S. cents per pack of 20. Pipe-tobacco prices were also increased 1.1 U. S. cents per ounce. Manufacturers ascribe the higher prices to increases in the cost of leaf tobacco, wages, salaries, and other expenses. Retail prices of cigarettes have been raised the equivalent of 9.3 U. S. cents per pack since May 1956. Current prices now range from 31.4 to 51.3 U. S. cents per pack of 20.

HONDURAS EXPECTS LARGER TOBACCO CROP

The 1958 tobacco crop in Honduras is tentatively estimated at 8.6 million pounds, .6 million larger than the 1957 crop. All types are expected to show increases--flue-cured from .5 million pounds in 1957 to .6 million in 1958, Burley from less than .1 million pounds to slightly more than .1 million, and other air-cured from 7.4 to 7.9 million pounds.

Production of both flue-cured and Burley is expected to increase in the future, with possible slight gains in other air-cured leaf. Prices paid for tobacco in San Pedro Sula for 1957-crop leaf averaged about 43 U. S. cents per pound for flue-cured, 29 U. S. cents for Burley, and 15 U. S. cents for air-cured.

ANGOLA INCREASES IMPORTS OF HOPS

Angola does not grow hops, and beer manufacturers must depend on imports for supplies. Imports have more than doubled since 1953, but are still small. They are expected to continue to increase annually in proportion to beer production, or about 10 percent a year. West Germany and Czechoslovakia are usually the principal suppliers.

HOPS: Angola, supply and distribution, 1953-57

Item	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/	1957 1/
	- - -	Metric tons	- - -		
January 1 stocks.....	-	1	1	1	1
Imports.....	4	7	9	10	11
Production.....	-	-	-	-	-
Total supply.....	4	8	10	11	12
Consumption.....	3	7	9	10	11
Exports.....	-	-	-	-	-
December 31 stocks.....	1	1	1	1	1
Total distribution.....	4	8	10	11	12

1/ Estimates based on beer production.

PERU'S 1958 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
PROSPECTS NEAR NORMAL

Heavy seasonal rains in recent weeks fell throughout most of the Andean zone, including the drought area, giving Peru prospects for a near normal crop of most agricultural products in 1958. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 13, 1958.) Although some crops have been delayed, notably potatoes and corn, which had been damaged by the drought and freezes, the recovery in these and other crops has been generally satisfactory.

In the case of potatoes, late freezes followed drought and seed shortages developed in the southern Andes. These conditions probably will be more than offset by excellent prospects in Cajamarca and Huaraz and good prospects in the central Andes. A similar situation exists for barley and corn and some other crops. There has been some replacement of wheat by barley. Part of this has resulted from the seeding of barley for the new malting plant in Lima, and part from planting improved seed obtained under the Public Law 480, Title II relief program. Rains generally have been abundant in the central and southern Andes, and sufficient in the north central mountain area to provide about normal crop prospects and enough initial irrigation water for the coastal sugar and rice producing valleys.

A moderate increase in centrifugal sugar production over 1957 is expected as a result of improved varieties and techniques if irrigation water is adequate. In Peru's cotton producing central valleys, the supply of irrigation water has varied by valleys from barely sufficient to abundant. Cotton pests have so far been largely controlled and prospects in general are for an increase in yields, a moderate increase in production and improvement in quality over the 1957 crop. In Peru's extra-long staple producing valleys of the north, cotton planting has started and the supply of irrigation water seems enough at present for a crop at least as large as that of 1957.

Food distribution in Peru's drought area continued during January and supplies, including recent and expected arrivals of foodgrains, are expected to meet needs until mid-April when harvest will be started on some crops.

Food supply and price problems became more acute during January and price increases were permitted on certain items including canned milk and sugar. While beef has been generally adequate in the Lima area in recent months, much of it imported, there are still shortages and growing price problems in the provinces. Peru's imports of agricultural products recently have been hampered by dollar shortages.

Long-term credit to ranchers and processors is being planned to encourage livestock production in Peru's 3 major agricultural areas.

NETHERLANDS' LARGEST FLOUR MILL HAS FAVORABLE BALANCE FOR 1957

The 1957 operating account of the Netherlands' largest flour mill, "Meelfabrieken der Nederlandsche Bakkerij N.V.," at Rotterdam shows a favorable balance of Fl. 2,700,000 and net profits of roughly Fl. 1,000,000. (One florin, or guilder, equals \$0.263.) A dividend of 12 per cent will be paid on the paid-in capital stock of Fl. 6,000,000, which is held by some 5,000 bakers. This corporation is the largest flour-milling concern of the Netherlands and operates a modern milling plant, grain silos, and flour storage plants in Rotterdam.

A new grain silo with a capacity of 28,000 metric tons to be built at a cost of Fl. 4,000,000 in Rotterdam will increase the corporation's total elevator capacity to 73,000 metric tons. The company controls or is financially interested in other flour mills, several bakeries and bread factories, a factory of bakery ingredients, a cattle-feed plant, and a number of grain trading and forwarding firms.

Although grain prices dropped sharply after the Suez crisis, and the Dutch corporation lost heavily on grain stocks and outstanding grain orders, the favorable financial returns of the corporation's subsidiary enterprises offset these losses.

The large Netherlands flour-milling company states that flour exports in 1957 were negligible. Diminishing flour exports, and the continual decrease in domestic bread consumption have induced the corporation, along with two other Dutch flour mills, to acquire all the capital stock of a mill at Amsterdam operated by the N. V. Stoommeelfabriek Holland. The share of the Rotterdam corporation in this transaction amounted to Fl. 1,000,000. The Amsterdam mill will be closed in order to eliminate the current surplus capacity of the Netherlands flour-milling industry.

NEW ZEALAND EXPECTS SMALLER HOPS HARVEST

The New Zealand Department of Agriculture reports that the 1957-58 season has not been favorable for hops. Soil temperatures were low up to December 1957, and vines are thin. The yield will probably be below that of 1956-57.

Acreage planted to hops has decreased slightly, the present area being 583 acres; 32 acres of new gardens have been planted, but a number of poor-yielding gardens have been abandoned. Reduction of acreage will not affect 1957-58 production as much as the poor growing conditions. The fixed price to growers remains at 4s.4d. (61 cents) a pound.

Provisional figures of the Department of Agriculture indicate that the yield for the 1956-57 season was 1,003,568 lbs. from 600 acres, compared with 1,239,269 pounds from 644 acres in 1955-56. Cold and wet conditions in the October-December 1956 period were responsible for the lower yield last sea-

Exports of hops from New Zealand during the 10-month period January-October 1957 totaled 320,900 pounds. Of that quantity, 108,100 pounds went to Ireland, 91,100 pounds to Australia, and the balance to Western Samoa.

CEYLON PLACES COCONUTS UNDER EXPORT CONTROL

A license is now required to export fresh coconuts from Ceylon, according to Export Control Notice No. 8/57 of December 4, 1957. This action came as a result of the strong demand for copra and a sudden shortage of coconut oil in the United Kingdom and continental Europe. The move, which at first placed a virtual ban on coconut exports, was later relaxed to permit the shipment of about 700,000 coconuts, held in warehouses for overseas customers.

At the same time the Minister of Agriculture and Food lowered the price of coconuts in Colombo ranging from 24 to 28 rupee cents per nut (\$.05 to .06) to 12 to 18 rupee cents (\$.03 to .04). Factors contributing to the high prices included poor crops and distribution problems. Coconuts at the reduced prices are available only to persons holding ration books and trading with the 33 Cooperative Stores Societies Unions.

Ceylonese average prices of copra and coconut oil rose substantially in the last quarter of 1957, reflecting good demand from India. Copra prices rose 18 percent from a monthly average of 168 rupees per candy of 560 pounds (\$141.12 per long ton) in October to 199 rupees (\$167.16) in December. Similarly coconut oil prices rose 16 percent from 987 rupees per long ton (\$.093 per pound) to 1,147 rupees (\$.108). The price of desiccated coconut remained static, ending at 44 rupee cents per pound (\$.092 per pound) in December.

Ceylon's exports of coconut products for the first 11 months of 1957 totaled 31,051 long tons of copra, 50,469 long tons of coconut oil and 47,255 long tons of desiccated coconut.

INDIA RELEASES ADDITIONAL OILCAKE FOR EXPORT

On February 2, 1958 the Government of India announced that 15,000 long tons of coconut oilcake would be released for export through September 1958. This quantity is in addition to oilcake export quotas previously announced (See Foreign Crops and Markets, February 10, 1958). A limit of 500 long tons has been fixed for the coconut oilcake exports by individual shippers.

WEST GERMANY'S COTTON IMPORTS CONTINUE HIGH

West Germany's cotton imports during the first 3 months (August-October) of the 1957-58 season were 308,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was up slightly from the 303,000 bales imported during the comparable period a year earlier.

Imports of U. S. cotton increased sharply in August-October 1957, amounting to 194,000 bales or 63 percent of total imports, compared with 89,000 bales or 29 percent of the total in August-October 1956. Increased imports were also shown from British East Africa, Nicaragua, and the U.S.S.R., with decreased quantities from Mexico, Peru, Turkey, the Sudan, Belgian Congo, and Egypt.

Quantities imported from major sources during August-October 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: United States 194,000 bales (89,000); Mexico 30,000 (83,000); British East Africa 25,000 (24,000); Peru 15,000 (28,000); Nicaragua 8,000 (4,000); Turkey 7,000 (10,000); U.S.S.R. 6,000 (312); Sudan 5,000 (13,000); Belgian Congo 5,000 (14,000); and Egypt 4,000 (6,000).

Germany's cotton imports in the August-July 1956-57 season were 1,596,000 bales compared with 1,276,000 imported during August-July 1955-56. The United States share of Germany's imports during 1956-57 increased sharply to 927,000 bales, or 58 percent of total imports, compared with 90,000 bales, or 7 percent of the total in 1955-56.

Cotton consumption was estimated at 369,000 bales during August-October 1957, up 5 percent from the 352,000 bales consumed in this period a year earlier. Consumption of United States cotton during August-September 1957, amounted to 156,000 bales, or 67 percent of total cotton consumed, up sharply from 37,000 bales or 17 percent of the total during August-September 1956.

The West German mills have precise quality demands, and are geared for high speed operations. Therefore, the qualities of cotton mainly in demand are Strict Middling 1-1/16 inches and higher. The current shortage and higher prices of these qualities in the United States has led to increased buying of competitive growths, principally Mexican, Central American, North Brazilian, Russian, Syrian, Iranian, Sudanese, and East African. The shift to competitive growths is expected to reduce the share of United States cotton in total German imports during the remainder of the 1957-58 season. However, the full impact of the current supply situation probably will not be felt until the last quarter (May-July) of 1957-58, as mill requirements have already been covered for the next 6 to 7 months. According to unofficial estimates, United States cotton will probably represent 40 to 50 percent of Germany's total imports for the 1957-58 season.

Cotton stocks in West Germany were estimated at 336,000 bales on November 1, compared with 400,000 bales on August 1, 1957, and 194,000 bales on November 1, 1956.

The price of U. S. Strict Middling 1-1/16 inches cotton advanced steadily from 33.90 cents per pound on October 15, 1957, to a high of 36.35 cents on December 17, then dropped slightly in January. Prices of comparable foreign cottons have increased also, but to lesser extent. Semi-official cotton quotations, c.i.f. Bremen, January 28, 1958, were: Strict Middling 1-1/16 inches--U. S. raingrown, 36.05 cents per pound--Mexican 35.45 cents--Nicaraguan 33.70 cents--Iranian cokers 33.65 cents--and Russian Pervij 35.95 cents.

DROP IN TURKISH 1957 FILBERT PRODUCTION EASES LARGE CARRYOVER SITUATION

The 1957 Turkish filbert crop, estimated at 66,000 short tons, in-shell basis, is only half as large as the record 143,000-ton harvest of 1956 and about 10 percent smaller than the average production during 1950-54. Carried-over stocks, however, amounted to 24,000 short tons in-shell at the beginning of the 1957-58 marketing season. About three-fourths of this was held by quasi-government cooperatives.

FILBERTS, IN-SHELL: Turkey, supply and distribution, 1956-57 and 1957-58 forecast

Item	1956-57	1957-58 forecast
	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks, Sept. 1.....	1,000	24,000
Production.....	143,000	66,000
Total.....	144,000	90,000
Exports.....	<u>1/</u> 95,000	75,000
Domestic consumption.....	25,000	14,000
End stocks, August 31.....	24,000	1,000
Total.....	144,000	90,000

1/ About 5,000 tons allowed for smuggled exports.

The Turkish Government sharply increased grower support prices for the 1957 filbert crop, thereby creating an even greater disparity between wholesale and export prices. In effect, wholesalers are obliged to pay from 72.9 to 77.8 cents per pound for filbert kernels for which they can expect approximately the government-established minimum price of 45.4 cents per pound.

Trade sources report that exporters can offset losses from selling below cost by obtaining government permits to import scarce items for re-sale at substantial profits. These permits, however, are said to be reserved largely for the government-sponsored cooperatives.

Old-crop kernels, still subject to the minimum export price of 49.0 cents per pound, are selling well below the minimum export price because of barter arrangements. A barter deal has allegedly been completed for exchanging 6,600 tons of old-crop filberts, in-shell equivalent, for materials and services furnished by a U. S. firm. This is additional to the 2,400 tons, in-shell equivalent, already shipped to the United States. Barter sales reportedly are limited to 1956 crop transactions.

WEST GERMANY AND SOVIET UNION LEADING PURCHASERS OF IRANIAN RAISINS

Raisin exports amounting to 32,629 short tons have been reported by Iran for the 8-month period August 23, 1956, through April 20, 1957. West Germany continues to be the largest purchaser, with imports during this period aggregating 13,368 tons, or 41 percent of total Iranian raisin exports. The Soviet Union is the second largest purchaser, taking 33 percent of the Iran shipments during the 8 months.

The 1957 Iranian raisin pack, estimated as 69,000 short tons, is 31 percent greater than the 1950-54 five-year average of 52,600 tons.

Raisins were quoted in the Tehran wholesale market in mid-January at 11.9 cents per pound--exportable stocks were reportedly exhausted.

RAISINS: Iran, exports by country of destination, comparable 8-month periods, 1955-56 and 1956-57

Country of destination	Aug. 23, 1955- Apr. 8, 1956	Aug. 23, 1956- Apr. 20, 1957
	Short tons	Short tons
Ceylon.....	18	209
Egypt.....	395	---
France.....	1,846	1,172
Germany, West.....	24,667	13,368
India.....	1,202	1,687
Iraq.....	833	851
Japan.....	---	124
Kuwait.....	604	303
Netherlands.....	5,637	2,748
Oman.....	95	194
United Kingdom.....	1,580	1,122
U.S.S.R.....	5,854	10,682
Other countries.....	228	169
Total.....	42,959	32,629

SWEDEN IMPORTS FLAX FIBERS FROM SOVIET UNION

Imports of flax and flax tow into Sweden from the U.S.S.R. will be 2.6 million pounds in 1958, according to the quota set by the annual bilateral trade protocol between Sweden and the U. S. S. R.

Sweden imported 6.5 million pounds of flax fiber in 1956. This was composed of 4.7 million pounds of unhackled flax, 1.6 million pounds of tow and waste, and the remainder was hackled fiber. Imports from the U.S.S.R. in 1956 were 220,000 pounds of unhackled flax and 571,000 pounds of tow and waste. Annual imports of flax in 1955 and 1956 were about double the quantities in 1951 through 1954, but only a relatively small proportion of the increase was accounted for by Russian imports. Belgium and the Netherlands, the principal sources, accounted for most of the increase.

GOOD EXPORT DEMAND AND PRICES FOR TURKISH RAISINS

Though prices are slightly below pre-Christmas levels, Turkish raisins continue to move on the Izmir Exchange at prices about 50 percent higher than those of a year ago. On January 20, 1958, Exchange prices for No. 9 Standards were 24.0 cents per pound, and 25.3 cents for No. 10's. Export prices, f.o.b. Izmir, reflecting the government export subsidy, were:

	<u>Cents per pound</u>	
	<u>No. 9 Grade</u>	<u>No. 10 Grade</u>
To European Payments Union countries.....	18.0	18.3
To Non-European Payments Union countries.....	21.2	21.9
(Slightly higher prices prevail for raisins packed in wooden boxes)		

The 1957 Turkish raisin pack is estimated at 58,000 short tons, slightly more than half as large as the bumper 1956 pack of 110,000 tons, and 19 percent less than the 72,000-ton average for 1950-54. Rains at blossomtime and dry weather during August reduced the size of the 1957 crop.

According to the Izmir Exporters Union, exports of both new and old-crop raisins from September 1, 1957, to January 15, 1958, were about 36,800 tons, or about 11,000 tons less than for the corresponding period of 1956-57. Exports during 1957-58 are expected to total 64,000 short tons, compared with 73,400 tons during 1956-57. The trade expects no carryover of stocks from the 1957-58 season. Carryover from 1956-57, on the other hand, was an estimated 22,000 tons.

Ceiling prices imposed on the Turkish domestic market during 1957-58 have encouraged exports at the expense of the home market. Domestic consumption during 1957-58 is therefore expected to decline somewhat.

RAISINS: Turkey, exports by destinations,
Sept. 1-Jan. 15, 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country of destination	1956-57	1957-58
	(Sept. 1 - Jan. 15)	(Sept. 1 - Jan. 15)
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Austria.....	2,737	219
Belgium.....	3,429	1,872
Czechoslovakia.....	546	2,579
Finland.....	1,968	199
France.....	2,670	101
Germany, West.....	3,479	8,654
Ireland.....	1,125	138
Italy.....	5,836	3,705
Netherlands.....	4,977	3,611
United Kingdom.....	12,743	7,347
U.S.S.R.....	4,409	2,866
Other countries.....	4,066	5,521
Total.....	47,990	36,812

BRAZIL EXTENDS TRADE AGREEMENTS
WITH POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Brazil has extended for 6 months its trade agreements with Poland and Czechoslovakia. This will carry both agreements through June 1958.

In 1956 Brazil gave notice of termination of these agreements, but they have been extended regularly since that time to avoid an interruption of trade. The agreement with Czechoslovakia provides for export by Brazil of a long list of agricultural products including coffee, cacao, sisal, hides and skins, and cotton.

On the import side, Brazil agrees to import a long list of industrial items plus hops, malt, and seed potatoes. The agreement with Poland provides for exports by Brazil of cotton, coffee, cacao, tea, hides, and other products and for imports by Brazil of agricultural machinery, newsprint, petroleum and coal mining equipment, malt, vodka, and other items.

POTATO CROP UNUSUALLY GOOD IN URUGUAY

Average yields of summer crop potatoes in Uruguay this season are double those a year earlier. If the late crop turns out equally good it will not be necessary to import potatoes this fall. Last fall Uruguay imported almost 70,000 bags of potatoes from the United States. The large yield results from a favorable growing season and better cultivation. The good crop also may be due to the use of seed from the United States.

MEXICAN RANCHERS IN NUEVO LAREDO AREA ARE RESTOCKING

Stockgrowers in the Nuevo Laredo area of Mexico are restocking their ranches with cattle as a result of improved range conditions. They expect to bring in cattle from Tamaulipas, in the south, and from Coahuila and Chihuahua, in the west, where range conditions are not as good. Some good-quality breeding cattle may be imported from the United States.

As a result of several years' drought, cattle numbers in the Nuevo Laredo area have declined until the area can barely fill its own meat requirements. However, extensive spring rains last year broke the drought, and rains again in November and December improved range conditions substantially. If the ranges continue good, the area will be able to export limited quantities of cattle and meat products in a year or two.

NETHERLANDS TO OPEN HIDES FUTURES MARKET

A futures market for cattle hides will open in Amsterdam on March 18, 1958. Buenos Aires Standard Frigorifico Light Sound ox hides weighing 42 to 51 pounds will serve as a basis for the contracts. Other grades of Argentine hides and some grades of North American and New Zealand hides may also be contracted. Futures will be based on an 18-month period. The contract, however, must be concluded in one of the 4 delivery months of January, April, July, or October. First delivery month will be October 1958.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES RISE

Wool prices rose about 2.5 percent at Australian auctions during the week ending January 24. This was the first significant rise in wool prices in the 1957-58 season (July-June). The outlook for a tighter supply situation in Australia during the last half of the selling season is contributing to the stronger tone in the wool market. Japan and the Continent continued to dominate the market, with limited U. K. buying.

The quantity of wool sold during the first half of the season was about 10 percent above a year ago, but wool in store on December 31, 1957, was down 22 percent. Wool receipts and disposals of Australian wool during July-December 1956 and 1957 were:

	July-December <u>1956</u>	July-December <u>1957</u>
	- - - <u>1,000 bales</u> - - -	
Carryover.....	86	116
New-clip receipts.....	3,758	3,509
Sold in Australia.....	2,030	2,208
Shipped abroad for sale.....	13	13
In store, December 31.....	1,801	1,404

MEAT SHORTAGE IN NEW CALEDONIA

The French West Pacific island of New Caledonia has a shortage of meat. An exceptionally dry winter and summer season in 1957 caused local livestock to lose condition on depleted pastures. The amount of high-quality beef offered for sale has declined, and producers and retailers have instituted voluntary rationing.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES UP SLIGHTLY

The sharp and continued decline in Dominion wool values since last season's peak in May was halted in mid-January. Dominion prices for Merino types during January were slightly higher than in the previous month. Although prices of most crossbred types were lower, they recovered somewhat toward the end of the month. Up to January, prices had declined about 30 percent from May levels.

WOOL: Clean cost, c.i.f. in the United Kingdom, based on auction sales in the United Kingdom and the Dominions 1/

Quality	January 1957	May 1957	September 1957	October 1957	November 1957	December 1957	January 1958
	- - - - U. S. dollars per pound - - - -						
70's.....	1.65	1.74	1.49	1.42	1.35	1.24	1.25
64's.....	1.52	1.63	1.40	1.32	1.25	1.12	1.14
60's.....	1.41	1.52	1.33	1.25	1.19	1.07	1.10
58's.....	1.26	1.39	1.27	1.19	1.13	1.03	1.04
56's.....	1.12	1.27	1.18	1.11	1.02	.98	.93
50's.....	.96	1.07	.97	.91	.85	.82	.78
48's.....	.95	1.04	.93	.87	.83	.79	.76
46's.....	.92	1.02	.91	.85	.82	.78	.74

1/ Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa.

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency)

FRANCE TO INCREASE
MEAT IMPORTS

The French Government has authorized increased imports of meat in an effort to control rapidly rising prices. Beef imports have been authorized from Hungary, the U. S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. Some imports of lamb and pork have also been authorized. Imports of feeder and stocker cattle are being considered. About 9 million pounds of pork imports were authorized in late 1957 as a price control measure (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 23, 1957).

Rapid increase in the French standard of living has increased consumption of meat and moved prices upward. France, a traditional exporter of livestock and meat, became a net importer of cattle and beef in 1956. This trend continued through 1957, with large imports of slaughter cattle. Although foreign exchange crises and subsequent currency exchange revisions reduced imports in late 1957, demand for meat has remained high, and France must import if prices are to be kept stable.

GHANA OFFERS COCOA
TO CEYLON FOR TEA

A four-man trade and goodwill mission from Ghana visited Ceylon in January. Ghana is reported to have offered Ceylon cocoa and several other products and to have expressed an interest in tea. The mission also showed interest in the local commodity auctions for tea, rubber, and copra.

LARGE ITALIAN WALNUT CROP OF LOWER
QUALITY COMMANDS GOOD PRICES

Though 25 percent smaller than the record 1956 harvest, the 1957 Italian walnut crop is regarded as one of the heaviest of recent years. General quality of the production, however, is said to be below average. Production in the important Piedmonte area was particularly low because of heavy frosts during the growing season.

Prices for Italian walnuts, on the other hand, have been high, and walnut stocks suitable for the export trade are reported to have been exhausted. Prices for 1957-crop in-shell ordinary and Sorrento's f.o.b. Southern Italy port as of early February were:

Ordinary.....	22.7 cents per pound
Sorrento.....	28.3 " " "

Walnut packers in the Naples area are reportedly adopting improved methods of merchandising. An increasing volume of in-shell walnuts is being sold in the domestic market in cellophane and plastic containers, while some shipments in the export trade are also being made in modern consumer packs.

PLANE-SET FIRES DAMAGE CUBAN SUGARCANE

On January 29, numerous cane fires were started in Camagüey Province, Cuba, apparently by the dropping of phosphorus from an unidentified plane. Aggregate loss of cane has been estimated to be the equivalent of about 5,000 tons of sugar.

INDIA REDUCES COFFEE EXPORT QUOTAS

The Coffee Board at Bangalore, India, announced on January 19, 1958, an export allocation of 131,716 bags of coffee from the 1957-58 crop. The previous year's allocation was 252,583 bags. The smaller allocation this year is due partly to the drop in production from 700,000 bags in 1956-57 to an estimated 616,667 bags in 1957-58 and partly because of rising internal consumption. The 1957-58 export allocation comprises 88,233 bags of plantation coffee and 43,483 bags Arabic Cherry, with no surplus Robusta coffee available for export.

U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN- EGYPTIAN UP IN DECEMBER

Exports of American-Egyptian cotton were 4,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1957, compared with 1,000 bales in November, and 11,000 bales in December 1956.

Exports during August-December 1957 were 5,000 bales, compared with exports of 36,000 bales in August-December 1956. More than half of this year's exports were to the United Kingdom, about one-third to France, and the remainder to Austria, West Germany, and Italy.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS UP IN DECEMBER

United States exports of cotton (all types) were 634,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December. This was an increase of about 16 percent from November exports of 548,000 bales, although considerably below exports of 975,000 bales in December 1956.

Cotton exports during August-December 1957 were 2,432,000 bales (500 pounds gross), compared with 3,122,000 bales during August-December 1956.

Sales under the 1957-58 cotton export program by the Commodity Credit Corporation, for export between August 16, 1957, and July 31, 1958, totaled 5,188,525 running bales as of February 4, 1958. The average selling price Middling 1 inch, average location, was 28.50 cents per pound for the February 4 sale, compared with 28.54 cents per pound on January 14, 1958.

COTTON: United States exports by country of destination, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1955 and 1956, August-December 1956 and 1957

Country of destination	(Bales of 500 pounds gross)						
	Year beginning August 1				August-December		
	Average						
	1935-39:	1945-49:	1955	1956	1956	1957	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	18	54	20		22
Belgium.....	169	131	30	337	147		109
Denmark.....	33	14	3	25	11		18
Finland.....	35	21	16	33	26		13
France.....	662	575	178	433	203		69
Germany, West.....	511	340	74	1,061	412		339
Italy.....	442	489	105	720	282		226
Netherlands.....	107	131	17	260	115		42
Norway.....	17	7	2/	21	7		7
Poland and Danzig.....	180	69	1	27	0		140
Portugal.....	36	2/	5	91	36		11
Spain.....	108	69	143	174	125		43
Sweden.....	115	12	10	111	37		65
Switzerland.....	11	26	14	121	71		46
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	153	1,050	408		330
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	109	141	2		1
Other Europe.....	3/ 96	4/ 90	5	38	7		11
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	881	4,697	1,909		1,492
Canada.....	301	275	75	380	173		102
Cuba.....	11	16	11	31	15		19
Israel.....	5/	5	15	19	5		2/
Hong Kong.....	5/	35	45	95	28		46
India.....	52	86	9	301	139		52
Indonesia.....	5/	5	15	43	16		13
Korea, Rep. of.....	5/	6/ 48	135	220	113		62
Japan.....	1,142	585	873	1,588	556		468
Philippines, Rep. of.....	2	4	12	36	19		21
Taiwan (Formosa).....	5/	1	124	161	29		19
Bolivia.....	4	2	13	11	2/		0
Chile.....	9	20	14	74	34		27
Colombia.....	20	24	27	52	20		35
Morocco.....	5/	3	6	15	6		6
Australia.....	9	7	28	81	28		25
Other countries.....	7/ 154	8/ 404	37	9/ 109	32		45
Total 500-lb. bales.....	5,589	4,065	2,320	7,913	3,122		2,432

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Czechoslovakia 65. 4/ Includes Czechoslovakia 57 and Greece 21. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Includes China 117, and French Indochina 22. 8/ Includes China 401. 9/ Includes Pakistan 28, Union of South Africa 31, and Uruguay 15.

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NEW SISAL EXPERIMENT
STATION FOR ANGOLA

The Governor-General of Angola (Portuguese West Africa) is planning to set up a sisal experiment station in the Ganda-Cubal region. This is to be a first step in helping the country's sisal industry meet the serious situation brought on by lower world prices. The station will study the possibility of inter-planting with other crops, a progressive change to other types of agriculture on some plantations, and improvement in fiber quality.

The \$35-million sisal industry of Angola involves about 170 cultivators.

IVORY COAST SUBSIDIZES
USE OF FERTILIZERS

It has been reported that on January 1, 1958, the local government of the Ivory Coast began reimbursing cocoa and coffee producers for one-third of the cost of agricultural fertilizers. Producers may apply for the one-third reimbursement up to an annual maximum of 446 pounds per acre for cocoa plantations and 669 pounds per acre for coffee plantations. The type and quality of agricultural fertilizers are not specified, thereby allowing for regional differences in soils.

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